

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Environmental Assessment
for the Renewal of BLM Grazing Permits/Leases**

Authorization Number	Permittee/Lessee
0501912	Wingspread West, LLC
0501744	Flattops Ranch
0501825	Raymond Horn Ranch Corp
0501794	Galloway INC
0501724	Richard & Marilyn Curry

Kremmling Field Office
2103 Park Ave, PO Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2013-008-EA

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME: Grazing Permit and Lease Renewal. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in response to the application for renewal of Livestock Grazing permits and lease for the following:

Table 1.

Authorization Number	Allotment	Permittee/Lessee
0501912	Fitch (07754)	Wingspread West, LLC
0501744	Yarmony Common (07537) Yarmony Individual (07574)	Flattops Ranch
0501825	Yarmony Common (07537)	Raymond Horn Ranch Corp
0501794	Trough Road (07535)	Galloway Inc.
“	Loback (07543)	“
“	Santoy 07564	“
0501724	Deberard (07576)	Richard and Marilyn Curry

PLANNING UNIT: Kremmling Field Office

APPLICANTS: Wingspread West LLC, Flattops Ranch, Raymond Horn Ranch Corp, Galloway Inc., Richard and Marilyn Curry

BACKGROUND:

Wingspread West LLC has been grazing the Fitch allotment, a Section 15 allotment, under lease #0501912 since 2006. The allotment encompasses 2070 acres of public (BLM) land. This lease has 124 animal unit months (AUMs), and grazing can occur from June to the end of September. This allotment is grazed in conjunction with large amounts of private land on the Pinto Valley Ranch. This allotment is categorized as an I (improve) category allotment, was found to be meeting the Standards for Land Health in Colorado in July of 2011.

Flattops Ranch has been grazing the Yarmony Common and Yarmony Individual allotments under permit number #501744 since 2003. The Yarmony Common allotment contains 5,896 acres of public land and the Yarmony Individual allotment contains 2,500 acres of public land with 160 acres of private land, for a total of 8,556 acres. This permit is for 307 AUMs and grazing can occur from the middle of May until the first of August. This allotment is categorized as an I allotment, but was found to be meeting Standards for Land Health in Colorado in June of 2011.

Raymond Horn Ranch Corp has been grazing the Yarmony Common allotment under permit #0501825 since 1993. Yarmony Common contains 5,896 acres of public land. This permit is for 158 AUMs, and is grazed by the Raymond Horn Ranch Corp from May 20 until June 20. This allotment is categorized as an I allotment, but was found to be meeting Standards for Land Health in June of 2011.

Galloway Inc has been grazing the Loback, Santoy, and Trough Road allotments under authorization # 0501794 since 1994. The Loback allotment encompasses 264 acres, with 50 AUMs. The Loback allotment is categorized as an M (Maintain) allotment, and has no issues or concerns. The Santoy allotment is a C category allotment, with 400 acres of public land and 664 acres of private ground for a total of 1,664 acres and a total of 21 AUMs. The Trough Road allotment encompasses 1,543 acres of public land, with 3,160 of private land for a total of 4,703 acres. The Trough Road allotment is a C category allotment with no known issues or concerns. These allotments are grazed in conjunction with very large tracts of private land on the Blue Valley Ranch.

Richard and Marilyn Curry have been grazing the Deberard allotment since 1983 under permit #0501724. The Deberard allotment contains 85 acres of public land in conjunction with 200 acres of private land for a total of 285 acres. The permit is for 11 AUMs. The Deberard allotment is a C category allotment with no issues or concerns. The Deberard allotment contains large amounts of irrigated meadow that is combined with the private ground.

Vegetation on all the allotments is predominately a sagebrush/bunchgrass steppe plant community. Major species of this plant community include Wyoming Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *wyomingensis*), basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *tridentata*), and mountain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana*), with a mixture of other shrubs including snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreopohilus*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). Perennial subshrubs include buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbelliferum*), Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*) and pussytoes (*Antennaria rosea*). Examples of some of the perennial cool season bunchgrasses include Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoregnaria spicata*), Needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), Indian ricegrass (*Acnatherum hymenoides*) several species of bluegrass (*Poa spp.*), and in a few areas crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). Annual forbs vary from year to year, depending on precipitation, but the list can include lupines (*Lupinus spp.*), flax (*Linum lewisii*) scarlet gillia (*Gilia aggregata*), and false dandelion (*Agoseris glauca*) to name just a few. Pinyon and juniper communities exist on Yarmony Common and Yarmony Individual. In the higher elevations of Yarmony Ind. and Yarmony Common, Santoy and Trough Road, some aspen (*Populous tremuloides*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) are found.

Grazing allotments within the Kremmling Field Office (KFO) have been placed in one of three management categories that define the intensity of management: (1) Improve, (2) Maintain, and (3) Custodial. These categories broadly define rangeland management objectives in response to an analysis of an allotment's resource characteristics, potential, opportunities, and needs. For Custodial allotments, the BLM must maintain the existing allotment situation and provide for management opportunities as needs arise for operators or other land use agencies. The management category and current schedule for the allotments are shown on the chart below.

Allotment	Category	Livestock #/Kind	Grazing Period	%PL	AUMs*
Fitch (07754)	I	C/C	6/1-9/30	100	124
Yarmony Common (Flattops) (07537)	I	C/C	5/10-5/28	100	107

Yarmony Individual (Flattops) (07574)	I	C/C	5/29-8/1	100	177
Yarmony Common (Horn) (07537)	I	C/C	5/20-6/20	100	158
Trough Road (07535)	C	C/C	6/1-10/31	18	171
Santoy (07564)	C	C/C	5/16-10/15	7	21
Loback (07543)	M	C/C	5/15-7/30	20	50
Deberard (07576)	C	C/C and horses	5/1-1/1	5	12

* AUM = animal unit month = the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and calf for one month.

PROJECT LOCATION AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BLM administered land located in Grand and Eagle counties.

Allotment Number	Legal Description
07754	6 th P.M., T. 3 N., R. 81 W., Sections. 26-28, 33-35 6 th P.M., T. 2 N, R. 81 W., Sections. 1-3
07537	6 th P.M., T. 2 S., R. 82 W., Sections. 6-8, T. 2 S., R. 83 W., Sections.1-3, 11-15, 22-24
07574	6 th P.M., T. 2 S., R. 83W., Sections. 1-3, 9-12, 15, 16
07535	6 th P.M., T, 1 N, R. 81 W. Sec. 33 T. 1 S. R. 81W., Sections 5,7
07564	6 th P.M. T. 1 N. R. 81W. Section 35
07543	6 th P.M. T 1 N. R.80 W. Sections. 31, 32
07576	6 th P.M .T. 1 N. R. 80 W., Section 1

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this action is to continue to allow grazing on public lands in a responsible manner that is compatible with Standards for Public Land Health, other resource uses and objectives, and in compliance with grazing regulations under 43 CFR 4110.1(a)(1).

In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock permittee/lessee must hold a valid grazing permit or lease. The need for this action is to ensure that grazing is authorized by a valid grazing permits or lease and to ensure the permittee and lessee manage grazing in accordance with current resource trends and uses.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The BLM has the authority to renew the livestock grazing permit or lease consistent with the provision of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the Kremmling Area Resource Management Plan (KRMP). This plan has been amended by the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado.

Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 315-3160, June 28 1934, as amended 1936, 1938, 1939, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1954 and 1976) was the first Federal effort to regulate grazing on Federal public lands. It establishes grazing districts and uses a permitting system to manage livestock grazing in the districts.

315b. Grazing Permits. The Secretary is authorized to issue permits to graze livestock in grazing districts to settlers, residents and other stock owners upon the annual payment of reasonable fees. Permits must be for a period of not more than ten years, with renewal subject to the discretion of the Secretary, who shall specify numbers of stock and seasons of use. Grazing leases are issued to BLM lands not included in grazing districts, but are also authorized for a period of ten years. During periods of range depletion due to severe drought or other natural causes, or during epidemics, the Secretary may remit, reduce, refund in whole or part, or postpone payment of grazing fees for the time the emergency exists. Grazing privileges must be safeguarded adequately but must not create any right, title, interest, or estate in or to the lands.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701) states that public lands will be managed on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield.

§ 402. **Grazing leases and permits.** Permits and leases for domestic livestock grazing on public lands issued by the Secretary...shall be for a term of ten years subject to such term and conditions the Secretary concerned deems appropriate.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Record of Decision for the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (KRMP) updated in 1999, and with the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a). The BLM Kremmling RMP analyzed the impacts of grazing.

In January 1997, the Colorado State Office of the BLM approved the Standards for Public Land Health and amended all RMPs in the State. Standards describe the conditions needed to sustain public land health and apply to all uses of public lands.

Standard 1: Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, land form, and geologic processes.

Standard 2: Riparian systems associated with both running and standing water function properly and have the ability to recover from major disturbance such as fire, severe grazing, or 100-year floods.

Standard 3: Healthy, productive plant and animal communities of native and other desirable species are maintained at viable population levels commensurate with the species and habitat's potential.

Standard 4: Special status, threatened and endangered species (Federal and state), and other plants and animals officially designated by the BLM, and their habitats are maintained or enhanced by sustaining healthy, native plant and animal communities.

Standard 5: The water quality of all water bodies, including ground water where applicable, located on or influenced by BLM lands will achieve or exceed the Water Quality Standards established by the State of Colorado.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Scoping: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508) require that the BLM use a scoping process to identify potential significant issues in preparation for impact analysis. The principal goals of scoping are to allow public participation to identify issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require detailed analysis.

Persons/Public/Agencies Consulted:

Scoping was the primary mechanism used by the BLM to initially identify issues. Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the BLM KFO interdisciplinary team on 12/17/2012. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the KFO's on-line NEPA register on 11/30/2012. A scoping process was initiated in December 2012, to request information concerning the renewal of the grazing permit and to prioritize areas of allotments with issues and concerns. The BLM KFO sent scoping letters, along with land status maps showing the affected allotments to the following groups and agencies:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPAW) (Steamboat Springs, Walden, Hot Sulphur Springs, Fort Collins);
- District Board of Grazing Advisors;
- County Commissioners of Grand and Jackson counties;
- Stock Growers Association (Middle Park, North Park, Upper Big Laramie River Ranch Association);
- Northwest Resource Advisory Council;
- United States Forest Service (Silverthorne, Granby, Walden);
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge);
- Tribal Councils (Arapaho, Shoshone, Southern Ute);
- Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs;
- Ute Indian Tribe Uintah and Ouray Agency Business Committee;
- Colorado Environmental Coalition; and
- Colorado State Land Board (Lane Osborn).

The BLM Colorado State Office also mailed outreach letters concerning the renewal of the grazing permit to all Congressional offices, State and Federal agencies, and major environmental, conservation and user group organizations.

In addition, BLM mailed individual letters to the affected permittees and lessee informing them that their permit was up for renewal and requested any information they wanted the agency to include or take into consideration during the permit renewal process. While the Interdisciplinary

Team was conducting Rangeland Health Assessments, one of the permittees from the Yarmony Common allotment was present to observe the protocol and participate in the discussion.

The BLM also posted a Notice of Public Scoping on the BLM Colorado external website the and the BLM KFO Internet NEPA register website, as well as placing notices in the Grand and Jackson county newspapers asking for public input on permit renewals and the assessment for compliance with the Standards within the KFO. The notice was followed up with a website posting of the KFO prioritization of the allotments and a determination as to which allotments would be assessed according to the Standards.

Comments supporting the renewal of these permits were received from the Grand County Commissioners, Grand County Farm Bureau, and a private citizen. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife appreciates the effort the BLM and the livestock operators have made to ensure healthy and productive habitats.

No negative issues or concerns were identified during public scoping.

DECISION TO BE MADE

The BLM will decide whether to implement the proposed action which is to renew the BLM Grazing Lease #0501912 for Wingspread West, LLC, permit #0501744 for Flattops Ranch, permit # 0501825 for Raymond Horn Ranch Corp, permit #0501794 for Galloway Inc, and permit #0501724 for Richard and Marilyn Curry based on the analysis contained in this Environmental Assessment (EA). The BLM may choose to; implement the proposed action, implement the proposed action with modifications/mitigation, or implement an alternative to the proposed action.

The BLM will determine if the applicant has a satisfactory record of performance in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.1-1(a)(1).

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL

In this document, the BLM has analyzed the No Grazing and Proposed Action Alternatives in detail. The Proposed Action is to authorize grazing at the current level which was established to address public land health issues.

Under the No Grazing Alternative, grazing would not be authorized on this allotment and a Term Grazing Permit would not be renewed. This is not consistent with the KFO RMP.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the BLM would renew the applicants' 10-year term livestock grazing permits/leases # 0501744, #0501825, #0501794, #0501724 and lease #0501912. The proposed action is in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2. The tables below summarize the scheduled grazing use and grazing preference for the permit. There are no proposed changes in season of use, permitted AUMs or in the terms and conditions of these permits or lease.

Table 4.

The renewed permits and leases would authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

Permit	Allotment	Livestock: Number and Kind	Season of Use	% Public Land	Permitted AUMs*
0501912	Fitch	C/C	6/1-9/30	100	124
0501744	Yarmony Common and Yarmony Individual	C/C	5/01-8/1	100	284
0501825	Yarmony Common	C/C	5/20-6/20	100	158
0501794	Loback,	C/C	5/15-7/30	20	50
0501794	Santoy	C/C	5/16-10/15	7	21
0501794	Trough Road	C/C	6/1-10/31	18	171
0501724	Deberard	C/C, horses	5/1-10/1	5	12

Terms and Conditions of the Proposed Action are:

1. Grazing use in the Allotments would be in compliance with the decision date.
2. The permittee/lessee is responsible for notifying the BLM of all county listed noxious weed populations which result from their livestock grazing operation.
3. Feeding of supplements such as salt, minerals, vitamins, or protein block is permitted on BLM administered lands. Supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) of a mile from sources of water. Feeding of dry matter (hay) is not permitted on BLM administered lands.
4. This permit/lease: 1. Conveys no right, title or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources and 2. is subject to (A) modification, suspension, or cancellation as required by land use plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions, as appropriate; and the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, as amended, the Public Rangeland Improvement Act, and the rules and regulations now or hereafter promulgated there under by the Secretary of the Interior.
5. Routine maintenance of range improvement is the responsibility of the permittee. Any soil disturbing activity must be revegetated with certified seed.
6. The permittee/lessee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they would be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

7. If historic or archeological materials are uncovered during any allotment activities and grazing activities, the permittee/lessee is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days, the authorized officer would inform the permittee whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the mitigation measures the operator would likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.
8. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must immediately notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written communication, upon discovery of human remains, funerary items, or sacred objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d) the permittees must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
9. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during allotment activities, the permittee/lessee is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The permittee/lessee and the authorized officer would consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.
10. It is the responsibility of the livestock grazing permittee to control their livestock and keep them from trespassing on non-permitted public lands, even if the permitted BLM administered land is not fenced.
11. The permittee shall provide the BLM with reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands for the orderly management and protection of the public lands.
12. Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576 are within the Wolford Travel Management Area with a Record of Decision signed January, 24 2005 designating the area as Limited to Designated Routes. Grazing permittee's are authorized to travel by motorized vehicle on designated Open and Administrative routes and along fencelines for fence and gate maintenance with no other cross-country travel by motorized vehicles. Administrative routes and travel along fencelines are authorized exclusively for the management of such lease. Routes designated as Open and Administrative are displayed in Attachments to the proposed decision as appropriate are to be provided to the respective permittee.
13. No motorized travel is allowed within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area during the winter seasonal closure between December 15 and April 15 within Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576.
14. Areas are designated within Resource Management Plans as Open, Limited, or Closed to motorized travel activities and are defined in 43 CFR §8340.0-5, (f), (g) and (h) respectively. The permittee/lessee is responsible for following an areas designation and stipulations outlined within a grazing lease that permit administrative use and exemptions to an areas designation exclusively for the management of such lease.
15. Roads, trails and trailheads, or campsites commonly in public use shall not be blocked or enclosed by the permittee.

Flexibility in Operations (Adaptive Management):

The BLM may modify pasture use dates and allowable forage removal specified by the grazing schedule to adapt to variability in resource conditions. Conditions that may require adaptive management and changes to the grazing schedule in any one year, may include but are not limited to: variations in seasonal weather patterns, drought, fire, and weed infestations. If modifications are agreed to by the BLM and the permittee, deviations from the grazing schedule

would be documented on the grazing application and approved by the BLM. Any approved deviations from the grazing schedule would be within the permit terms and conditions as per 43 CFR 4130.4(b).

The grazing plans in place for the Yarmony Common, Yarmony Individual and Fitch allotments will remain in place, reviewed periodically, and may be modified if conditions warrant.

Under the proposed action, the goals and objectives for these renewals are:

- Manage livestock grazing to meet the requirements of the desirable perennial vegetation; and
- Manage livestock grazing on public lands to promote healthy sustainable rangeland ecosystems and to provide for the sustainability of the western livestock industry and communities that are dependent upon productive, healthy rangelands (43 CFR 4100.0-2).

Compliance for the grazing permit/lease and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the BLM KFO Range Management Program. The KFO staff would use a Range Monitoring Plan to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate the allotment. Evaluation of monitoring data would be used to make appropriate changes to the grazing permit to protect land health.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

No Action Alternative:

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has indicated that the “No Action” alternative for permit/lease renewals is the continuation of the current “terms and conditions.” Their rationale is that this is the best alternative for analysis of current resource conditions, since in most cases, the land at issue has been grazed for many years, permittees/lessees already have a preference and, in the majority of the cases are applying to continue such use.

For the purpose of this EA, the No Action and the Proposed Action are the same and therefore, this EA will analyze the Proposed Action and a No Grazing Alternative.

No Grazing Alternative

Under the No Grazing Alternative, grazing would be discontinued on all allotments within the permits held by Galloway Inc, Flattops Ranch, Raymond Horn Ranch Corp, Richard and Marilyn Curry as well as the lease held by Wingspread West, LLC.

The KRMP has identified the land within the allotments as available for livestock grazing; a decision to implement a No Grazing Alternative would not be consistent with the KRMP. Under 43 CFR 1610.5-3, all actions approved or authorized by the BLM must conform to the existing land use plan. Actions out of conformance with the KRMP would require a land use plan amendment which is outside the scope of this EA.

AFFECTED RESOURCES

This section provides a description of the human and natural environmental resources that could be affected by the Proposed Action and presents comparative analyses of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the affected environment stemming from the implementation of the actions under the Proposed Action and other alternatives analyzed.

The CEQ Regulations state that NEPA documents “must concentrate on the issues that are truly significant to the action in question, rather than amassing needless detail” (40 CFR 1500.1(b)). While many issues may arise during scoping, not all of the issues raised warrant analysis in an environmental assessment (EA). Issues will be analyzed if: 1) an analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives, or 2) if the issue is associated with a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impact, or where analysis is necessary to determine the significance of the impacts. Table 2 lists the resources considered and the determination as to whether they require additional analysis.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Affected Environment: Agricultural practices, energy exploration and development, and hunting are the main economic activities of the areas listed under the Proposed Action. In these regions, livestock operations and public land management are strongly linked through grazing permits and leases.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Indirect benefits to the surrounding economy would occur due to overall employment opportunities related to the ranching service support industry in the region as well as the economic benefits to state and county governments related to taxes. Grazing operations would continue to supply personal income to the operator and employees and would proportionally influence the regional, state, and national economy.

Cumulative Effects: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Grazing Alternative:

Direct and Indirect Effects: Indirect effects to the surrounding economy could occur due to loss of employment opportunities related to the ranching service support industry in the region as well as the economic effects to state and county governments related to taxes. Grazing operations would not continue to supply personal income to the operator and employees and would proportionally negatively influence the regional, state, and national economy.

Cumulative Effects: None

Mitigation:

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS SUMMARY

“Cumulative Effects” are those effects resulting from the incremental effect of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or

person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative Effects are tiered to those described and analyzed in the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (KRMP) updated in 1999, and with the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a). The KRMP analyzed the impacts of grazing.

Cumulative effects occur when additional management facilities are added to those already present. Grazing plans are intended to meet specific objectives to the plan area and involve rangeland improvements that are designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, watershed, and overall resource conditions, thus improving ecosystem health.

Livestock grazing in the region has evolved and changed considerably since it began in the 1860s, and is one factor that has created the current environment. At the turn of the century, large herds of livestock grazed on unreserved public domain in uncontrolled open range. Eventually, the range was stocked beyond its capacity, causing changes in plant, soil and water relationships. Some speculate that the changes were permanent and irreversible, turning plant communities from grass and herbaceous species to brush and trees. Protective vegetative cover was reduced, and more runoff brought erosion, rills and gullies.

In response to these problems, livestock grazing reform began in 1934 with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act. Subsequent laws, regulations, and policy changes have resulted in adjustments in livestock numbers, season-of-use changes, and other management changes.

Given the past experiences with livestock impacts on public land resources, as well as the cumulative effects that could occur on the larger ecosystem from grazing on various public and private lands in the area, management of livestock grazing is an important factor in ensuring the protection of public land resources. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the analysis area would continue to influence range resources, watershed conditions and trends. The impact of vegetation treatments, voluntary livestock reductions during dry periods, and implementation of a grazing system have improved range conditions. The net result has been greater species diversity, improved plant vigor, and increased ground cover from grasses and forbs.

The effects of livestock grazing on resources in the allotments identified in this EA have been analyzed under the "Direct and Indirect Impacts" sections for each resource impacted.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance for the grazing permit and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the BLM KFO Range Management Program. The KFO staff would use a Range Monitoring Plan to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate the allotment. Evaluation of monitoring data would be used to make appropriate changes to the grazing permit to protect land health.

NAME OF PREPARER: Cynthia Landing

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Cassel

DATE: 3/27/13

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Review Record and Checklist

Attachment 2 – Native American Tribal Consultation List

Attachment 3 - Maps

Attachment 4 - Livestock Grazing Permits with Standard Terms and Conditions

Attachment 1: Resources and Determination of Need for Further Analysis

(NP) = Not Present

(NI) = Resource/Use Present but Not Impacted

(PI) = Potentially Impacted and Brought Forward for Analysis.

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
Physical Resources		
NI	Air Quality P Belcher	The Proposed Action involves renewing grazing permits/lease in Grand and Eagle Counties, where air quality is presumed to be meeting the state and national air quality standards. The permitted use does not affect air quality.
NI	Geology and Minerals Elliott	Geology and mineral resources would not be impacted by the proposed action, the no action alternative, or the no grazing alternative.
NI	Soil Resources* P Belcher	Allotments 7537, 7574, and 7754 have had soil concerns in the past. The present grazing permits/lease, with terms and conditions and grazing systems, have improved soil health. Renewing all the permits/lease would continue to maintain or improve soil health.
NI	Surface and Ground Water Quality* P. Belcher	Water quality within the allotments is considered to be good, although the Fitch allotment has high total dissolved solids, sulfates, and occasionally selenium due to the underlying geology. The BLM monitors the allotment, but none of the allotments have areas that appear to be significant sources of pollutants or have accelerated (due to land uses) erosion. Renewing the existing permits/lease and continuing to use the existing grazing plans are maintaining or improving overall land health and watershed condition, which protects water quality.
Biological Resources		
NI	Wetlands and Riparian Zones* P. Belcher	Public lands in Allotment 7754 include the riparian zones of Deer, Red Dirt, and Pinto Creeks, and wetland areas associated with unnamed intermittent draws. Some wetland communities are enhanced by irrigation return flows and impoundments, such as Deer Draw Retention Dam. The riparian conditions have improved in this allotment, and are meeting standards. Allotments 7537 and 7574 have several spring fed wetland areas, as does the BLM lands in allotment 7535 (13 acres). The grazing plan for 7537 and 7574 helps reduce utilization within the wetland areas and has improved the allotments. The timbered BLM lands of allotment 7564 have not been inventoried for wetland values. Allotment 7543 includes a portion of the Blue River's riparian and wetland communities, and Dry Gulch. Allotment 7576 is dominated by the private portions of the Troublesome Creek's floodplain, but also includes the public land's portion of Starr Gulch. The existing grazing plans are designed to provide rest and deferment to the wetland and riparian zones of Allotments 7754, 7537, and 7574. There are no other existing concerns. Renewing the existing permits/lease would continue present management, which will maintain, or improve, the wetland and riparian areas.
NI	Vegetation* Landing	All the allotments are meeting Standards for Rangeland Health in Colorado. Continuation of the current management systems

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
		<p>provides for rest and deferment, which will maintain or improve upland health. Herbivory is the removal of foliage from plants by grazing animals. Excessive removal of plant leaves can lead to decline and mortality, yet excessive accumulation of decadent plant materials can also lead to decline in vigor and plant death. The BLM sets utilization rates, (removal of current year's growth) at 40-60%. This level of defoliation maximizes photosynthetic activity, while allowing for adequate vegetation residues to protect the plant crown, increase water infiltration and retention and protect the soil surface from wind erosion. Light to moderate grazing also increases tillering and reduces transpiration loss. By setting these utilization standards, the BLM is able to balance the benefits of grazing while preventing the negative impacts of unmanaged grazing, and maintaining a dynamic equilibrium.</p>
NI	Invasive, Non-native Species Hughes	<p>Allotments #7537 and #7574 do contain some infestations of Cheatgrass, Black Henbane, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, and Bull thistle. Most of the above species occur in the prescribed burn area which was conducted in 2008 and 2009. The consequential disturbance from the fire has provided avenues for noxious weeds to spread within these areas. Since 2009 the BLM has treated these areas and has reduced the infestations of noxious weeds. In June of 2011 the allotment was assessed for rangeland health and met all standards. The act of grazing cattle would not have a significant impact on the spread or introduction of noxious weeds within these allotments. There are no known noxious or invasive species within Allotments 7535, 7543, 7564, 7754, and 7576.</p>
NI	Special Status Plant and Animal Species* McGuire	<p>The Proposed Action would not have any impact on threatened or endangered species or their habitats. Allotments 7754, 7576, 7564 and 7543 contain habitat for Greater sage-grouse. This species typically completes breeding and nesting activities from March 1 to June 30. There is a possibility that nests would be active when livestock use the allotments and a slight chance that livestock could trample a nest. The probability that this would occur is very low as sage-grouse typically nest under shrubs and livestock prefer to go around these obstacles rather than through them. The proposed grazing system would not likely impact the long-term health of nesting habitat or impact populations as a whole.</p>
NI	Migratory Birds McGuire	<p>Most migratory birds complete nesting activities from May 15 to July 15. There is a possibility that nests would be active when livestock use the allotments and a slight chance that livestock could trample a nest. The probability that this would occur is very low to none as the identified bird species within the allotments nest in trees, cliffs, or in and under shrubs. Generally, livestock prefer to go around these obstacles rather than over them. Therefore, the chance of wounding, killing, or disturbing a migratory bird species or their nests is very low to none. No impacts are expected to migratory bird populations as a whole. The probability that golden eagle's or falcons prey species are impacted is low to none as sufficient forage and cover is expected to remain in the allotments after being grazed by livestock.</p>
NI	Aquatic Wildlife* McGuire	<p>Only allotments 7543, 7576, and 7754 have the potential for aquatic wildlife. Aquatic wildlife such as muskrat, beaver, amphibians, and cold water fish are not expected to be impacted by the Proposed</p>

Determination¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
		Action. Most waterfowl complete nesting activities from May 15 to July 15. There is a possibility that nests would be active when livestock use the allotments and a slight chance that livestock could trample a nest. The probability that this would occur is low as utilization levels under the current grazing system are light and cattle are not likely concentrating in one area. Similar utilization levels are expected under the Proposed Action, therefore impacts to nesting waterfowl are expected to be slight to none and have no effect to their populations as a whole.
NI	Terrestrial Wildlife* McGuire	<p>The Proposed Action would not likely affect big game animals or their habitats. Livestock grazing, as proposed, would ensure that sufficient forage would continue to be available for wildlife. Habitat conditions would remain in a condition capable of supporting healthy wildlife populations.</p> <p>Burrowing rodents may sustain injury or damage to burrows by livestock. Because utilization levels under the current grazing system are light, similar utilization levels are expected under the Proposed Action. Therefore, impacts to rodent burrows are expected to be minor and have no effect to their populations as a whole.</p>
NP	Wild Horses	There are no Wild Horse herds on the lands administered by the KFO.
Heritage Resources and the Human Environment		
NI	Cultural Resources Wyatt	<p>An allotment assessment was completed in 2002, for potential impacts to known cultural resources. Allotment #7537 has had approximately 75% inventoried at the Class III level, with six eligible or need data sites have been located. Allotment #07574 has had approximately 19 acres inventoried at the Class III level, with no historic properties have been located. Allotment #07535 has had approximately 640 acres inventoried at the Class III level with no historic properties located. Allotment #07543 has had approximately 265 acres inventoried at the Class III level. No sites that are determined to be eligible to the National Register are located within the allotment boundary. Allotment #07564 has had approximately 5 acres inventoried at the Class III level, and with no historic properties located. Allotment #07576 has had approximately 100 acres inventoried at the Class III level, and with one known historic properties located.</p> <p>When project undertakings are identified, a cultural resource inventory under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act would be conducted to determine if historic properties are present and effects if any form grazing.</p>
NI	Paleontological Resources Wyatt	Geologic formations sensitive for fossil resources are present, but will not be impacted by the proposed action. BLM standard “discovery” stipulation is part of the environmental assessment and is to be attached to any authorization allowing project to proceed.
NI	Native American Religious Concerns Wyatt	American Indian Tribal consultation and was initiated on December 10, 2012. To date no American Indian Tribe has identified any area of traditional cultural or spiritual concern. As individual undertakings under Section 106 of the NHPA are identified within the allotment tribal consultation will be initiated.
NI	Visual Resources Schechter	Visual resources would not be impacted by the proposed action, the no action alternative, or the no grazing alternative.

Determination¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
NP	Hazardous or Solid Wastes Elliott	There are no quantities of wastes, hazardous or solid, located on BLM-administered lands in the proposed project area, and there would be no wastes generated as a result of the Proposed Action, No Action Alternative, or the No Grazing Alternative
NI	Fire Management Thompson	By following the Standards for Public Land Health and grazing regulations under 43 CFR 4110.1(a) (1), the Fire Regime Condition Class is non-expected to increase, therefore maintaining and not increasing the risk of catastrophic wildland fire.
PI	Social and Economic Conditions Cassel	There is an economic component to the permittee, county and state from grazing. See discussion.
NP	Environmental Justice Cassel	According to the most recent Economic Census Bureau statistics (2009), there are minority and low income communities within the Kremmling Planning Area. There would be no direct impacts to these populations.
Resource Uses		
NI	Forest Management T. Adamson	These allotments are not considered to be intensive forest management acres. Implementation of the proposed action or the no grazing alternative would have no impact on forest management or forest and woodland vegetation.
NI	Rangeland Management Cynthia Landing	These allotments would be used as in the past, and there would be no changes made in grazing schedules.
NI	Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights P. Belcher	The existing management is not negatively impacting the floodplain or the hydrology of the area. BLM holds sufficient water rights for allotments 7537, 7574, and 7543, depending on the number of livestock and the year's hydrologic conditions. Although there are water sources, developed and undeveloped, on the other allotments, the BLM does not hold any water right on them and depends on private water rights held by the permittees/lessees. Renewing the existing permits would continue the present conditions.
NI	Realty Authorizations Sperandio	Rights-of-ways exist on portions of the allotments. No impacts would occur from the proposed action of the no grazing alternative.
NI	Recreation Monkouski	Existing recreational uses in the general area include hunting, hiking, horseback riding, Off-Highway Vehicle use, wildlife viewing; snowmobiling and driving for pleasure. There would be no impacts from the Proposed Action or No Grazing Alternative.
NI	Access and Transportation Monkouski	There are no changes in access or transportation under the proposed action or No Grazing Alternative. Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576 are within the Wolford Travel Management Area with a Record of Decision signed January, 24 2005, designating the area as Limited to Designated Routes. Grazing permittee's are authorized to travel by motorized vehicle on designated Open and Administrative routes and along fencelines for fence and gate maintenance with no other cross-country travel by motorized vehicles. Administrative routes and travel along fencelines are authorized exclusively for the management of such lease. No motorized travel is allowed within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area during the winter seasonal closure between December 15 and April 15 within Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576.

Determination ¹	Resource	Rationale for Determination
NI	Noise	The management of grazing allotments and the maintenance of grazing improvements has limited noise generated that is typically short-term in extent. There would be no impacts from the Proposed Action.
NP	Prime and Unique Farmlands P. Belcher	There are no prime or unique farmlands that would be affected by these grazing permits/lease. The adjacent private farmlands may be considered farmlands of state or local importance. Renewing the grazing permits/lease supports the continuation of agricultural practices on these private lands.
Special Designations		
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern located within the project area.
NP	Wilderness Monkouski	There are no designated Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the proximity of the proposed project area.
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Monkouski	The allotments were inventoried for Wilderness Characteristics in 1979 and reviewed in 2009. The areas do not possess Wilderness Characteristics due to its size being less than 5000 acres nor is it of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The Yarmony Allotment is part of the Yarmony Unit that was brought forward for Intensive Inventory in 1980 and those findings are still relevant for this area. At the time, the original inventory identified 12 miles of route in the area. There are now 57 miles of routes in the area. Since the original inventory, Rights-of-Way have been granted on several of these routes. The original inventory found the area's naturalness was significantly impacted by the presence of the routes. The increase in the number and miles of routes in the area has further impacted the area's naturalness. Additionally, the original inventory found that opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation were impacted by the presence of the routes. Given the five-fold increase in route proliferation, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are even more impacted today.
NI	Wild and Scenic Rivers Schechter	Allotment 07543 is in an Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segment, Blue River Segment 3. The outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) for this segment are recreational (floatboating and fishing), wildlife (nesting and winter habitat for bald eagle and habitat for river otter), and biodiversity (riparian forest community). This BLM allotment is part of a much larger allotment (20% on BLM) and is not used frequently. The remaining 80% of the allotment (on private lands) is lands that float boaters pass before they get to the BLM allotment. Floatboaters are accustomed to grazing cattle along the river and continued grazing on the BLM allotment would not change the ORV. Wade fishermen hike down to the river through the BLM allotment and could have encounters with grazing cattle. This allotment has been grazed since 1994 so recreationists are accustomed to cattle occasionally grazing along the Blue River. All other allotments are not in any eligible Wild and Scenic River segments. Renewing the existing permits/lease would continue the present conditions.

¹ NP = Not present in the area impacted by the Proposed Action or Alternatives. NI = Present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required. PI = Present with potential for impact analyzed in detail in the EA.

* Public Land Health Standard

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Signed
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Air Quality; Surface and Ground Water Quality; Floodplains, Hydrology, and Water Rights; Soils; Wetlands and Riparian Zones	02/22/2013
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources; Native American Religious Concerns; Paleontological Resources	2/26/2013
Zach Hughes	Natural Resource Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species; Vegetation; Rangeland Management	03/19/2013
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Migratory Birds; Special Status Plant and Animal Species; Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife;	02/20/2013
Kelly Elliott	Natural Resource Specialist	Hazardous or Solid Wastes	03/26/2013
John Monkouski Hannah Schechter	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Visual Resources; Access and Transportation; Recreation, Noise; Wild and Scenic Rivers	JM – 02/25/2012 HS- 03/04/2013
Tom Adamson	Forester	Forest Management	03/19/2013
Kelly Elliott	Natural Resource Specialist	Geology and Minerals	03/26/2013
Annie Sperandio	Realty Specialist	Realty	03/22/2013
Kevin Thompson	Fire Management Specialist	Fire Management	02/20/2013
Cynthia Landing	Rangeland Management Specialist	Project Lead – Document Preparer	04/01/2013
Susan Cassel	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance	3/26/2013

Attachment 2

TRIBES, INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

Colorado Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Attn: Ernest House, Jr., Exec. Sec.
130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Matthew Box, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
P O Box 737
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Neil Cloud, NAGPRA Rep.
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Mail Stop #73
Ignacio, Colorado 81137

Gary Hayes, Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 189
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

Terry Knight, Sr., THPO Director
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P O Box 468
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

Robert Goggles, NAGPRA Rep.
Northern Arapaho Tribe
328 Seventeen Mile Road
Arapaho, Wyoming 82510

Harvey Spoonhunter, Chairman
Northern Arapaho Business Council
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Wilford Ferris
Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center
P O Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Ivan Posey, Chairman
Shoshone Tribe
P O Box 538
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

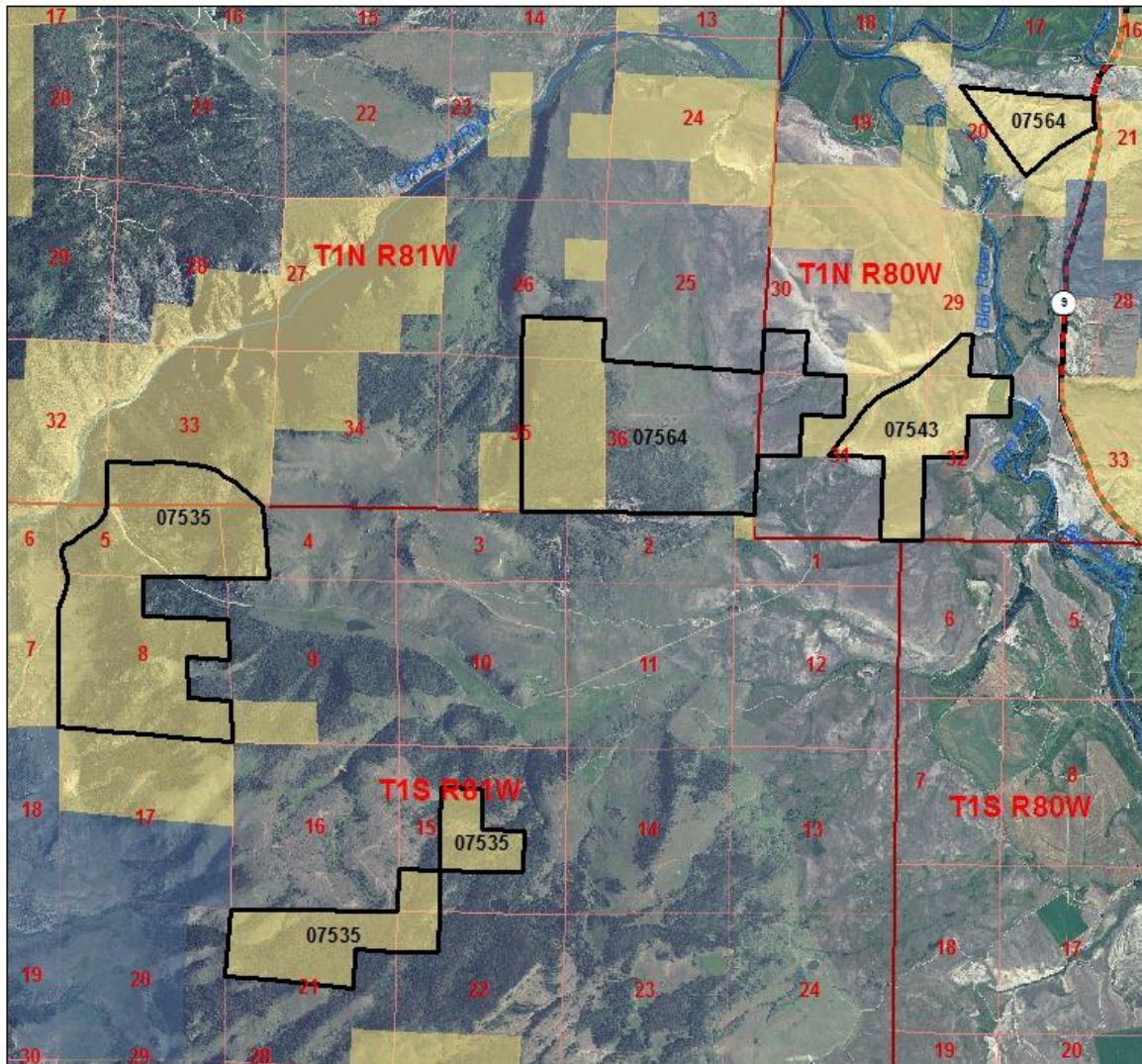
Darlene Conrad, THPO Director
Northern Arapaho Tribe
P O Box 396
Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514

Curtis Cesspooch, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Center
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Betsy Chapoose, Director
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business
Council
P O Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026



Allotments 07535, 07564, 07543



Legend

Highway Labels
State Highways
Legend

U.S./State

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Mgt
- National Park
- US Forest Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- State/DOW
- CO State Forest State Park

1

Miles

1:55,222

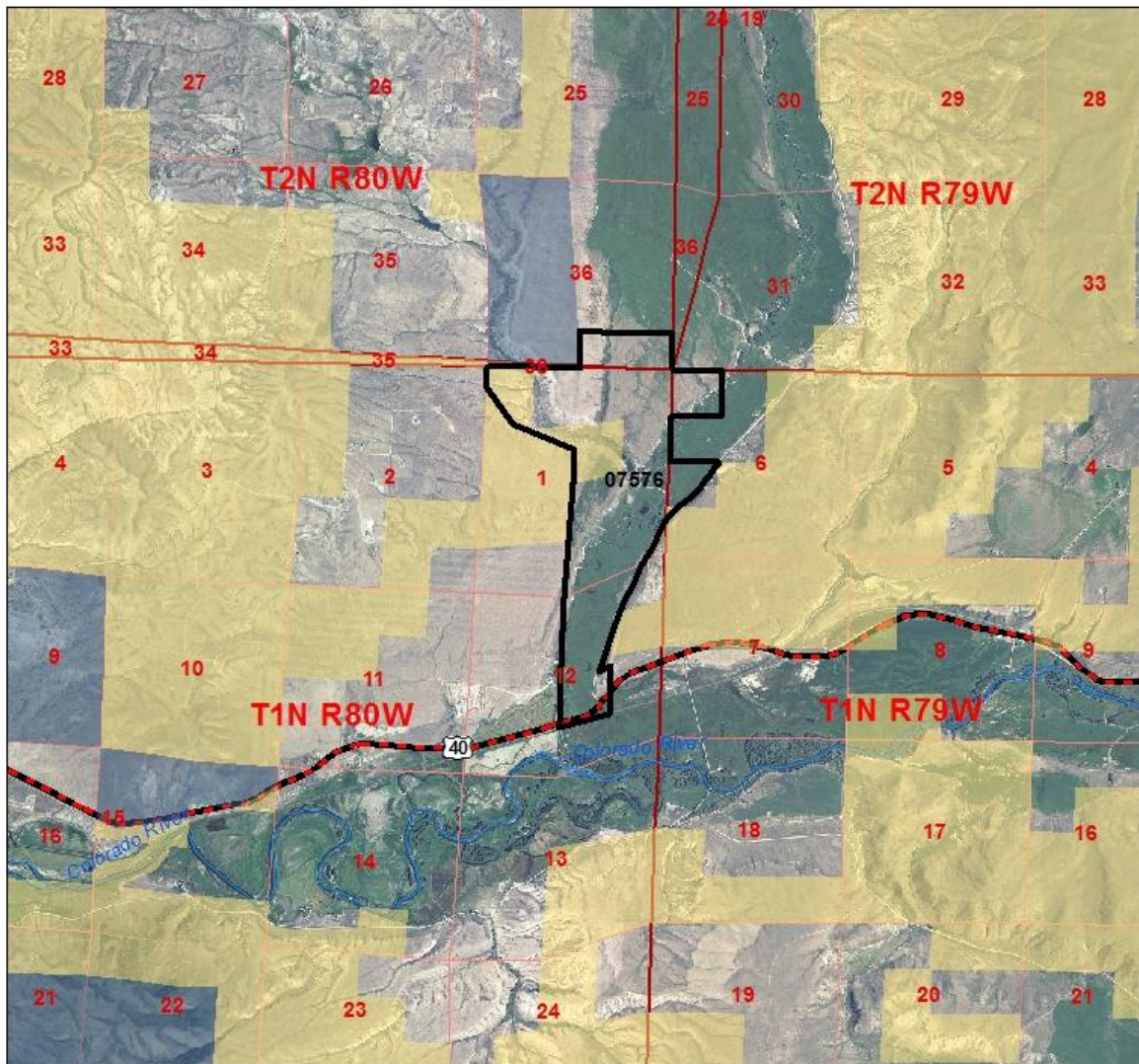
BLM, Kremmling FO 2010

Red box shows map location.

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data. Last edited by cll.



Allotment 07576



BLM, Kremmling FO 2010

Red box shows map location.

Legend

Highway Labels

State Highways

Legend

U.S./State

Land Status

Bureau of Land Mgt

National Park

US Forest Service

National Wildlife Refuge

State/DOW

CO State Forest State Park

1

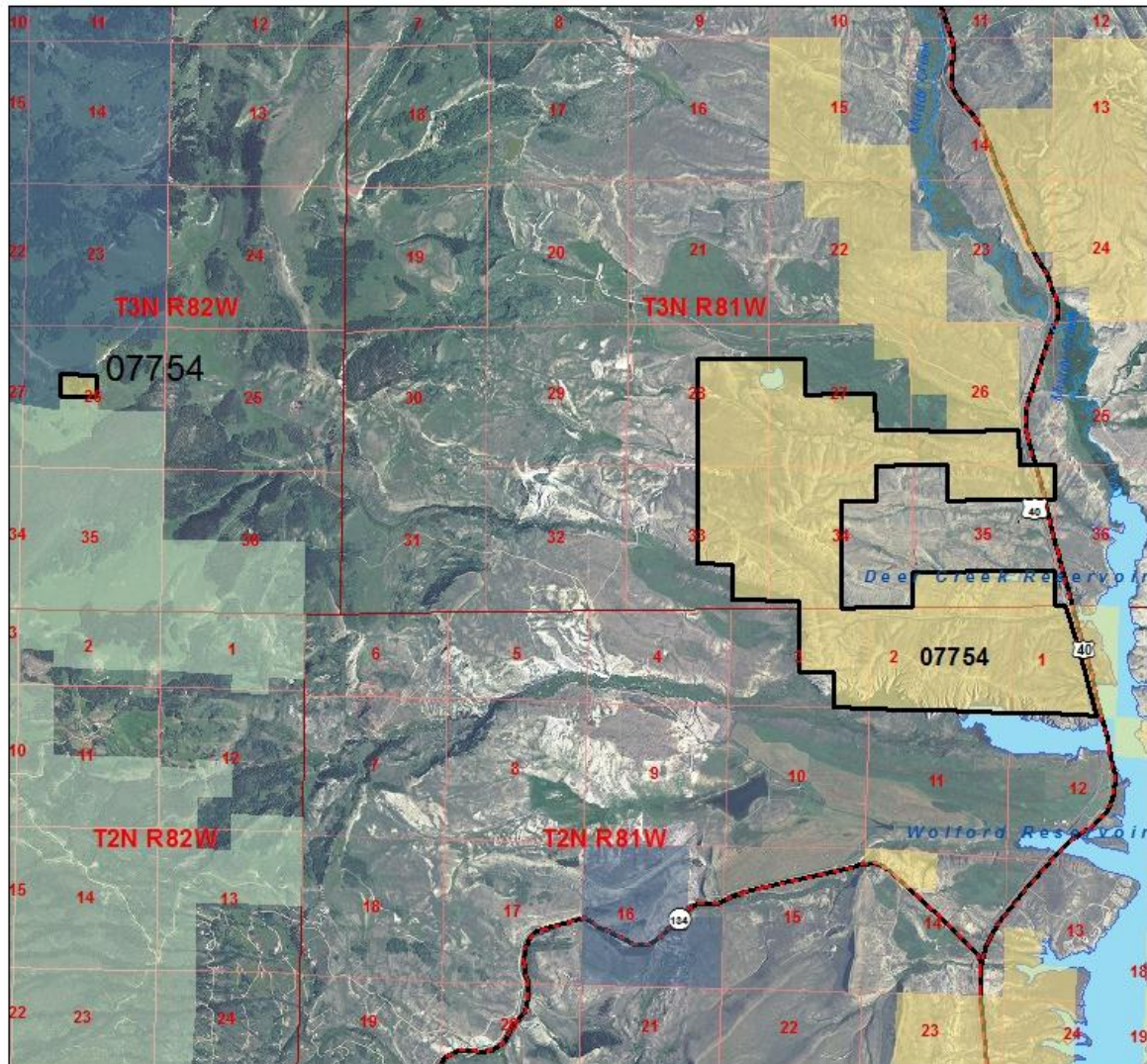
Miles

1:50,000

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data. Last edited by cll.



Allotment 07754



BLM, Kremmling FO 2010

Red box shows map location.

Legend

Highway Labels

State Highways
Legend

U.S./State

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Mgt
- National Park
- US Forest Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- State/DOW
- CO State Forest State Park

1

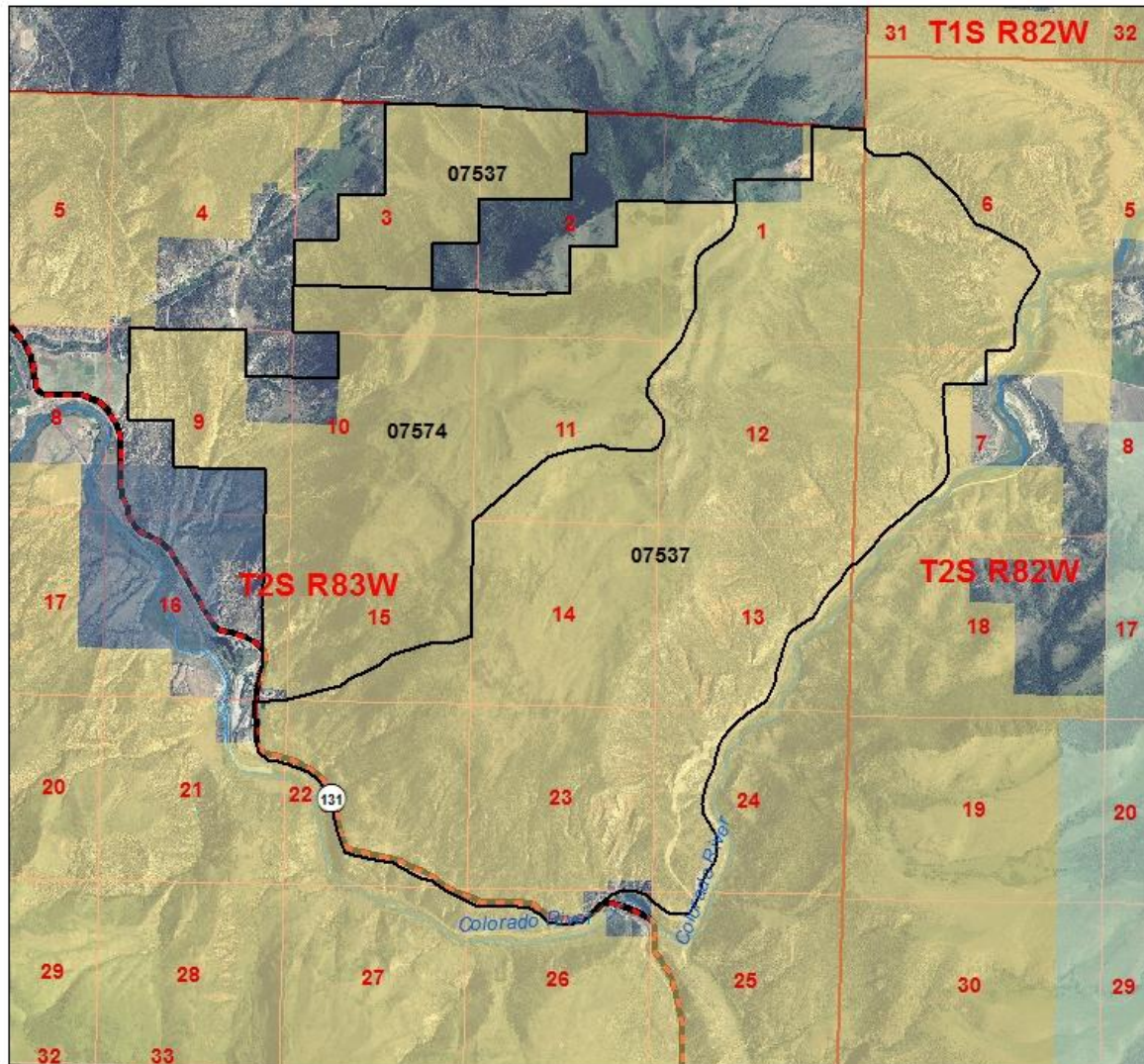
Miles

1:64,783

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data. Last edited by cll.



Allotments 07574 and 07537



Legend

Highway Labels
State Highways
Legend

U.S./State

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Mgt
- National Park
- US Forest Service
- National Wildlife Refuge
- State/DOW
- CO State Forest State Park

1

Miles

1:50,000

BLM, Kremmling FO 2010

Red box shows map location.

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data. Last edited by cll.

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office

Environmental Assessment: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2013-0008-EA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Grazing Lease/Permit Renewal

Applicant/Proponent: Wingspread West, LLC, Flattops Ranch, Raymond Horn Ranch Corp., Galloway Inc., Richard and Marilyn Curry

Location of Proposed Action:

6th PM, T. 3N. R. 81W., Sections 26,27,28,33,34,35
6th PM, T. 2N, R. 81W., Sections 1,2,3
6th PM, T. 2S., R.82W., Sections 6,7,8,
6th PM, T. 2S., R. 83W., Sections, 1,2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,22,23,24
6th PM, T. 1N., R. 81W., Sections 33,35
6th PM, T. 1S., R. 81W., Sections 5,7
6th PM, T.1N., R. 80W., Sections 1,32,33

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:

These plans have been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. This proposed action is in conformance with the following land use plans:

Name of Plan:	Kremmling Resource Management Plan	Date	1999
		Approved:	

BACKGROUND

The Kremmling Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to issue grazing lease renewals for the following:

Authorization Number	Allotment	Permittee /Lessee
0501912	Fitch (07754)	Wingspread West, LLC
0501744	Yarmony Common (07537) Yarmony Individual (07574)	Flattops Ranch
0501825	Yarmony Common (07537)	Raymond Horn Ranch Corp
0501794	Trough Road (07535)	Galloway Inc
“	Loback (07543)	“
“	Santoy 07564	“
0501724	Deberard (07576)	Richard and Marilyn Curry

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment which analyzed the effects of re-authorization of the above mentioned grazing permits/lease to determine impacts and mitigation required to continue to allow grazing on public lands in a responsible manner that is compatible with Standards for Public Land Health other resource uses and objectives, and in compliance with grazing regulations under 43 CFR 4110.1(a)(1). In order to graze livestock on public land, the livestock permittees/lessees must hold valid grazing permits.

The EA identified a preferred alternative which proposes to continue livestock grazing on the identified allotments. There would be no changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference as expressed in animal unit months (AUMs).

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary review and analysis determined that the proposed action would not trigger significant impacts on the environment based on criteria established by regulations, policy and analysis.

I have reviewed the above mentioned NEPA compliance document (EA). I have determined that the proposed action and the alternatives are in conformance with the Kremmling Resource Management Plan, 1999.

I have determined, based on the analysis in DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2013-0008-EA, this is not an action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is based on the rationale that the significance criteria, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR 1508.27) have not been met.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

The following rationale was used to determine that significant impacts were not present for each criteria mentioned in Title 40 CFR 1508.27:

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

This project may have minor short term impacts to soils, vegetation, and wildlife; however these impacts are not significant. No changes to the number or kind of livestock, season of use, or amount of authorized grazing preference as expressed in AUMs are disclosed in the EA.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.

The proposed action is not expected to impact public health and safety.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

There are no significant impacts to riparian vegetation, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, historic, cultural, or wild and scenic rivers within the project area. There are no municipal water supplies in the project area.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are not considered highly controversial.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The effects on the human environment from the proposed action are not uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The proposed action would not establish a precedent for the future nor does it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

The proposed action is not related to other past, present or reasonable foreseeable actions likely to result in any significant impacts. The cumulative impacts of other grazing permit renewal activities and any other reasonable foreseeable activities in the same area are not likely to result in cumulatively significant impacts.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

The ground-disturbing activities associated with the proposed action would not directly adversely affect any sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The project would not adversely affect any sensitive, threatened, endangered species or those proposed for listing.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The proposed action does not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. ORV's for an eligible segment of Wild and Scenic River would be protected by the proposed action.

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached EA and renew livestock grazing lease for 0501912, and grazing permits for 0501744, 0501825, 0501794, 0501724 to be in effect from February 28, 2013 through February 27, 2023. This decision is contingent on meeting all monitoring requirements listed below.

Compliance for the grazing permits/lease and its associated terms and conditions would be accomplished through the BLM KFO Range Management Program. The KFO staff would use a Range Monitoring Plan to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate the allotment. Evaluation of monitoring data would be used to make appropriate changes to the grazing permits/lease to protect land health.

Reviewer: _____ Date _____
Environmental Coordinator

Authorized Officer: _____ Date: _____



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Kremmling Field Office

P.O. Box 68, 2103 E. Park Ave.

Kremmling, Colorado 80459-0068

www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/kfo.html



In Reply Refer To:
4190.1
CON020

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOTICE OF MANAGER'S PROPOSED DECISION

DECISION:

It is my proposed decision to implement the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2013-008-EA, which is to issue the grazing lease for #0501912 for Wingspread West, LLC on Fitch (07774) allotment for a period of 10 years. The lease will be issued for the same livestock numbers and season of use that are currently permitted. The lease will include the following terms and conditions, management guidelines, goals, objectives, and monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Proposed Action has been reviewed for consistency and conformance with the land use plan and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The renewed lease would authorize livestock grazing to the following extent:

Permit	Allotment	Livestock: Number and Kind	Season of Use	% Public Land	Permitted AUMs*
0501912	Fitch (07754)	38 C/C	6/1-9/30	100	124

* AUM = animal unit month = the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and calf for one month.

Terms and Conditions of the Proposed Action are:

1. Grazing use in the Allotments will be in compliance with the decision date.
2. The permittee is responsible for notifying the BLM of all county listed noxious weed populations which result from their livestock grazing operation.
3. Feeding of supplements such as salt, minerals, vitamins, or protein block is permitted on BLM lands. Supplements shall be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) of a mile from sources of water. Feeding of dry matter (hay) is not permitted on BLM lands.
4. This permit: 1. Conveys no right, title or interest held by the United States in any lands or resources and 2. is subject to (A) modification, suspension, or cancellation as required by land use plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions, as appropriate; and the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, as amended, the Public Rangeland Improvement Act, and the rules and regulations now or hereafter promulgated there under by the Secretary of the Interior.
5. Routine maintenance of range improvement is the responsibility of the permittee. Any soil disturbing activity must be revegetated with certified seed.
6. The permittee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the allotment operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.
7. If historic or archeological materials are uncovered during any allotment activities and grazing activities, the permittee is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer. Within five working days, the authorized officer will inform the permittee whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for grazing activities again.
8. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must immediately notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written communication, upon discovery of human remains, funerary items, or sacred objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d) the permittees must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
9. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during allotment activities, the permittee is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The permittee and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.
10. It is the responsibility of the livestock grazing permittee to control their livestock and keep them from trespassing on non-permitted public lands, even if the permitted BLM land is not fenced.
11. The permittee shall provide the Bureau of Land Management with reasonable administrative access across private and leased lands for the orderly management and protection of the public lands.
12. Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576 are within the Wolford Travel Management Area with a Record of Decision signed January, 24 2005 designating the area as Limited to Designated Routes. Grazing permittee's are authorized to travel by motorized vehicle

on designated Open and Administrative routes and along fencelines for fence and gate maintenance with no other cross-country travel by motorized vehicles. Administrative routes and travel along fencelines are authorized exclusively for the management of such lease. Routes designated as Open and Administrative are displayed in Attachments 1 and 2 are to be provided to the respective permittee.

13. No motorized travel is allowed within the Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area during the winter seasonal closure between December 15 and April 15 within Allotments Fitch 07754 and Deberard 07576.
14. Areas are designated within Resource Management Plans as Open, Limited, or Closed to motorized travel activities and are defined in 43 CFR §8340.0-5, (f), (g) and (h) respectively. The permittee is responsible for following an areas designation and stipulations outlined within a grazing lease that permit administrative use and exemptions to an areas designation exclusively for the management of such lease.
15. Roads, trails and trailheads, or campsites commonly in public use shall not be blocked or enclosed by the permittee.

Under the proposed action, the goals and objectives for these renewals are:

- Manage livestock grazing to meet the requirements of the desirable perennial vegetation.
- Manage livestock grazing on public lands to promote healthy sustainable rangeland ecosystems and to provide for the sustainability of the western livestock industry and communities that are dependent upon productive, healthy rangelands (43 CFR 4100.0-2)

Compliance for the grazing permit and its associated terms and conditions will be accomplished through the Kremmling Field Office Range Management Program. The Kremmling Field Office Range Monitoring Plan will be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate the allotment. Evaluation of monitoring data would be used to make appropriate changes to the grazing permit to protect land health.

RATIONALE:

Approving permit and lease renewals has been delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the local Authorized Officer. Renewal of this permit would allow the current permittee to continue to graze on their designated allotments for a period of 10 years beginning on March 1, 2012.

It was determined in the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP) updated in 1999 that livestock grazing is integral part of the economic and social structure of the counties in the planning area. Not renewing this permit is not considered a viable alternative in the RMP.

MITIGATION MEASURES\MONITORING:

The monitoring program would include appropriate consultation, cooperation and coordination with the rangeland users, other agencies, and interested publics. Close coordination between the permittee or their representatives, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the BLM of all livestock related field monitoring is essential to determine conformity with the terms and conditions of the permits.

Sufficient monitoring data would be collected to determine if management actions are, 1) contributing to the achievement of allotment objectives and 2) achieving or making significant

progress toward achieving the Standards for Public Land Health in Colorado and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

The intensity and frequency of additional monitoring done on the allotment would be dependent on annual funding allocations and work priorities established for the Kremmling Field Office. Monitoring priorities for the allotment would be determined annually. Guidance provided in BLM Technical References and BLM Manuals would be the basis for monitoring or inventory conducted on the allotment.

Monitoring would include both short-term and long-term studies. Short-term monitoring would include compliance monitoring, actual use data, range readiness when necessary through a joint field inspection with the BLM and the permittee, utilization studies on riparian areas and uplands and collection of climate and soil moisture data. Long term monitoring would document and measure trends toward or achievement of objectives over a period of years.

Evaluations may be conducted anytime during the implementation of this permit if monitoring data or other data support changes to the allotment objectives, management actions or annual permitted use.

Authorization:

§ 4100.0-3 Authority.

- (a) The Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934 as amended (43 U.S.C. 315, 315a through 315r);
- (b) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*);
- (c) The Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*); and
- (d) Public land orders, Executive orders, and agreements that authorize the Secretary to administer livestock grazing on specified lands under the Taylor Grazing Act or other authority as specified.

PROTEST/APPEALS:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest a Proposed Decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to Kremmling Resource Area Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2103 Park Ave, PO Box 68 Kremmling, CO 80459 within 15 days of the Notice of Proposed Decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the Proposed Decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), *in the absence of a protest*, this Proposed Decision will become the final decision of the Authorized Officer without further notice. In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) *upon a timely filing of a protest*, after a review of protests and statement of reasons received and other information pertinent to the case, the Authorized Officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 4160.4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the Proposed Decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed with the Kremmling Resource Area Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2103 Park Ave, PO Box 68 Kremmling, CO 80459.

The person/party must also serve a copy of the appeal with Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Rocky Mountain Region, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 and any person sent a copy of this decision (see cc list following the signature line) [43 CFR 4.421(h)]. The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error and otherwise complies with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471 (a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer and serviced in accordance with 43 CFR 4.473. Any person named in the decision from which an appeal is taken (other than the appellant) who wishes to file a response to the petition for a stay may file with the Hearings Division, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Salt Lake City, Utah a motion to intervene in the appeal, together with the response, within 10 days after receiving the petition 43 CFR 4.472 (b). Within 15 days after filing the motion to intervene and response, the person must serve copies on the appellant, the Office of the Solicitor and any other person named in the decision [43 CFR 4.472(b)].

If you have no concerns with the grazing permit as offered, please sign, date, and return it at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cynthia Landing at (970)724-3013 or stop by our office in Kremmling. Thank you for your continuing cooperation.

Susan L. Cassel
Field Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Lease

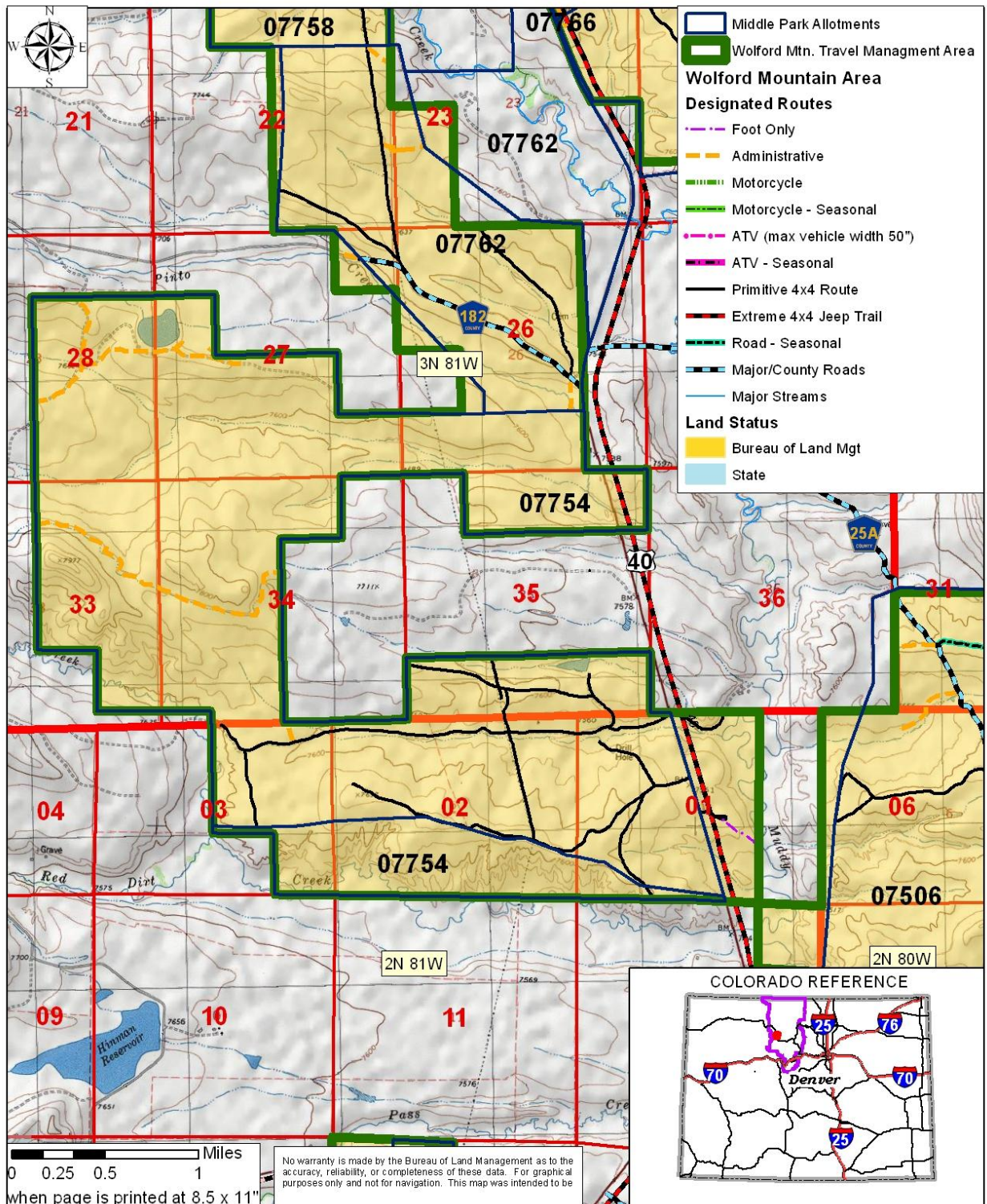
Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area, Allotment 07754 Designated Routes

Wolford Mountain Travel Management Area, Allotment 07576 Designated Routes



Wolford Travel Management Area Allotment 07754 Designated Routes

1:40,000





Wolford Travel Management Area Allotment 07576 Designated Routes

1:24,000

